

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 6-10, 12-17, 19 and 20 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-3, 6-10, 12-17, 19 and 20 have been amended and claims 4, 5, 11 and 18 have been canceled by the present amendment.

In the outstanding office Action, claims 1-3, 9, 11, 14-17 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Ogawa et al.; and claims 4-8, 10, 12, 13, 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Ogawa et al. in view of Tanaka et al.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include subject matter similar to that recited in dependent claims 4 and 5. Independent claims 14 and 20 include similar features in a varying scope. Accordingly, comments will be presented distinguishing independent claims 1, 14 and 20 over the rejection of claims 4-8, 10, 12, 13, 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Ogawa et al. in view of Tanaka et al.

Amended independent claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the method includes requesting the user to enter a unique non-user prescribed second password assigned to the current optical disc if the determining step (a) determines that the current optical disc has not been reproduced previously, comparing the entered second password with a password stored in a memory, requesting the user to enter the first password prescribed by the user if the comparing step (d) result indicates that the entered second password matches the stored password and storing, in the memory, the entered first password in an associated linking manner with the second password and disc ID information for the current optical disc.

These features are supported at least by Figures 3 and 4 and the corresponding description in the specification. For example, Figure 3a illustrates the first password (User_Password #1...#n) being stored in an associating linking manner with the second password (Disc #1_Password...Disc #n_Password) and disc ID information for the current optical disc. Thus, the user need not memorize and visually check unique disc passwords differently assigned to many optical discs prior to entering his or her desired password to the optical disc apparatus, resulting in greater convenience for the user (see paragraph [043], for example).

The Office Action relies on Ogawa et al. as teaching a first password (which is used in conjunction with a set parental level) and Tanaka et al. as disclosing a second password (which is used to extend the valid term in which a disc can be used). However, it is respectfully noted the passwords in Ogawa et al. and Tanaka et al. are not linked in an associating manner with each other as in the present invention. That is, the present invention includes two passwords that are associated in a linking manner with respect to each other. Thus, as discussed above, when the disc is first being played, the user enters a disc password and then enters a user created password such that he or she does not have to reenter the disc password, which can often be a complicated password. There is no teaching or suggestion in Ogawa et al. and Tanaka et al. about combining the different passwords in an associated linking manner as in the present invention.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted independent claims 1, 14 and 20 and each of the claims depending therefrom are allowable.

CONCLUSION

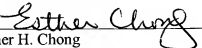
For the foregoing reasons and in view of the above clarifying amendments, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw all of the objections and rejections of record, and to provide an early issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters which need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Esther H. Chong (Registration No. 40,953) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and further replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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